

And that's not all that can be said about Bill. He is also one of the finest auctioneers Middle Tennessee has known.

Bill Collier, his wife, Patricia, their three children and two grandchildren are a tribute to the values we as Tennesseans consider so important and we wish him the best.

An article published in the News-Democrat in Waverly under the headline "Collier Looks Back at His Career" is printed below in honor of Bill's public service and dedication to his family.

[From the Waverly (TN) New Democrat, July 9, 1999]

COLLIER LOOKS BACK AT HIS CAREER
(By Grey Collier)

Work to become, not to acquire.

This quote by Elbert Hubbard in Monday's Tennessean might be best exemplified by Humphreys County native William H. (Bill) Collier.

Collier, who last weekend was honored by having a section of the newly-widened Highway 70 in New Johnsonville named for him, has long worked for the good of his home county.

Collier promised to try and get the bypass in Waverly when he ran for the state representative in 1984.

"We got the first three phases in Waverly funded," Collier said.

"Then we realized we needed to get it through New Johnsonville."

Upon entering his first term in the state legislature, Collier went to bat for the county immediately.

"I was in a meeting and an aide come to ask if he could do anything for us," Collier said. "I told him I wanted an appointment with Gov. (Lamar) Alexander."

At the time, there was a recession going on and Consolidated Aluminum had closed. "I told him about the shape Humphreys County was in and that we needed a bypass to bring in business," Collier said.

"He told me I was the first freshman (new representative) who spoke with him so candidly and he was going to help me," he said.

Soon after, Alexander made a visit to the county and plans were announced for the bypass.

"Our last conversation before (Alexander) left office was about the bypass," Collier said. "He said, 'Bill, the money is in the budget for the bypass, don't let anything happen to it.'"

Collier was successful in getting on the transportation finance ways and means committee which was also a big help in getting the bypass financed and built.

"John Bragg was the committee chairman and told me he had heard all he wanted to about 'that bypass,'" Collier said. "I told him he would stop hearing about it when it was built."

The completion of the by-pass is one of Collier's favorite accomplishments, but there are others as well.

He acquired a \$250,000 grant for factory building in the Waverly Industrial Park and a \$50,000 grant for a feasibility study of the state park in New Johnsonville.

"Those are the three things I am most proud of," Collier said. "But I have to attribute all of my accomplishments to the good help I had from local leaders and other politicians—especially Sen. Ben. Riley Darnell."

Collier did not run for reelection in 1994 due to health reasons. That ended his 10 year tenure in the legislature and a 22 year political career.

A Humphreys County native, Collier was born in the Big Richland community. He was employed with TVA for 10 years as an iron worker and foreman.

In 1957 he attended Reppert Auction School and began working part time as an auctioneer and real estate agent.

"I felt TVA and went full time as an auctioneer and real estate agent in 1960," he said.

His office was located on Main Street. At that time there was only one other real estate office in Waverly. How times change.

Since then he has not only conducted hundreds of auctions, but also took part in training a few.

"Governor Buford Ellington appointed me to the auction commission over west and part of middle Tennessee for five years," Collier said.

He was also an instructor for five years with the Nashville Auction School.

"I have five auctioneers at Collier Realty and have taken an active part in training all of them," he said.

He worked alone for three years before Gene Trotter came in as an auctioneer and Shirley Rochelle as a real estate agent. Nancy Trollinger worked as Collier's secretary for 20 years.

When he entered the legislature he took on Kenneth Dreaden as a partner so that he could devote more time to his political office.

In 1967, Collier married Patricia Fowlkes Collier. They have three children, Greg Gunn of New Johnsonville, Allyson Haggard of Okeechobee, FL, and Daniel Collier of Waverly.

He has two grandchildren, Connor Gunn, 6, and Mollie Collier, 3.

These days you are most likely able to catch him at the office where he still goes daily. Otherwise, he is likely to be sitting on the front porch swing, sharing Diet Coke and peanuts with his granddaughter.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEDICATED
SERVICE BY MR. ROBERT TOBIAS

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Robert Tobias on his outstanding service as President of the National President of the National Treasury Employees Union and wish him continued success as he engages in other professional challenges. I am proud to count Bob as my constituent and I thank him for the assistance he has given me on behalf of federal employees.

During the past 31 years that he has spent with the NTEU, Bob has been an effective advocate of federal employees, working his way up from staff attorney, to general counsel, to executive vice president, and finally, in 1983, to National President. Over these 31 years, NTEU has grown from 20,000 members in one agency to 155,000 members in 22 agencies.

During his impressive career, Bob received numerous Presidential appointments and awards: President Bush appointed him to the Federal Employees Salary Council; and President Clinton appointed him to both the National Partnership Council and the Commission to Restructure the IRS.

Bob also has been at the forefront of recent government reform efforts through his membership in the National Commission on Restructuring the IRS. The Commission's work

was the basis for the most far-reaching changes in the agency in nearly 50 years. Currently, he has been nominated to serve on the IRS Oversight Board and is awaiting Senate confirmation.

Bob's leadership style is firm but fair, and he is on the cutting edge of new developments in labor relations. I have worked personally with Bob on many issues, and often times we met with great success.

For example:

We collaborated on establishing the Fair Share formula, which prevented a large FEHBP monthly premium increase, thereby insulating federal employees and retirees from the full rise in health care premiums.

We worked to strike Medical Savings Accounts as an FEHBP option MSA's would have resulted in "cherry picking," and increased FEHBP premiums by siphoning off relatively healthy enrollees into catastrophic/MSA plans.

Bob's expertise on these issues was invaluable.

A glimpse into some of his other accomplishments further illuminates the reasons why Bob is such a great source of information and expertise. Through collective bargaining, Bob reached important agreements regarding: Quality of work life; developing the first national alternative work schedule; and child care facilities.

Bob was also instrumental in the Hatch Act reform, which allows federal employees to exercise their rights to participate in political activity.

Bob's work does not stop with advocacy on behalf of the NTEU. All federal employees benefit from his efforts, at the bargaining table and in the courtroom. He has used litigation to protect federal employee rights in a number of landmark cases. For example:

Bob worked on a Supreme Court victory just this year that established the right of federal employees and their collective bargaining representatives to initiate midterm bargaining;

Bob successfully sued Presidents Nixon in 1975 and Reagan in 1981 to obtain back pay for federal employees; and

Bob achieved a federal court victory that gave federal employees the right to engage in informational picketing.

I wish Bob the best of luck in his teaching and writing endeavors. His recommendation for the next National President, NTEU Executive Vice President Colleen Kelly, has a tough act to follow. The wonderful staff at NTEU will ease her transition, while Bob's legacy will benefit federal employees for generations. I heartily thank Bob for his devotion and service to civil servants. Shakespeare could have had Bob Tobias in mind when he wrote in Henry VIII: "The force of his own merit makes his way."

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under